

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 00042 with the following paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 5, a first implementation of an aspect of the invention is depicted. The needle shield 3 includes a retention washer 130 and a retention plate 131. The retention plate includes two members 132 (only one shown). A sleeve or ferrule 120, or other structure, is provided near the tip 13 of the needle 11. Referring to Fig. 6, a second implementation of the invention is depicted. The needle shield 3 includes a clip 170 that prevents reemergence of the needle tip as it is withdrawn into the shield, and a tether 171 that prevents the shield from sliding off the tip of the needle. In both instances, and as shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the proximal end 199 of the needle cannula 11 is crimped into a hook-shape 180, thereby sealing the proximal end of the cannula such that it is fluid tight. The hook-shaped end is disposed in a glue well 17 in the needle hub body 10. An adhesive 18 is delivered into the glue well and cured. The glue maintains the needle cannula firmly in place with respect to the needle hub, while ensuring that the proximal end of the needle cannula is sealed.

Please replace paragraph 00044 with the following paragraph:

Referring now to Figs 9-11, the crimping operation will be described. The needle cannula 11 is inserted into the needle hub body 10 such that it is seated snugly in a neck portion 181 of the hub. The needle cannula may be lubricated before such insertion. While the cannula fits snugly within the neck, it can be slid within the neck. A selected length of the needle cannula at the proximal end 199 is extended proximally out of the needle hub, as seen in Fig. 9. It will be appreciated that this length can be adjusted depending on the particular implementation of the invention, based upon the crimping tool to be employed, the size of the glue well, the specific performance required of the crimped end, and so on.